



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Mule Deer Hunting

Bosque del Apache

National Wildlife Refuge

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1939 and is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The refuge encompasses 57,331 acres of desert riparian and upland habitat and protects wintering habitat along the Rio Grande for migratory and resident wildlife.

Public hunting of both large and small game on the refuge is a tool used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to maintain wildlife populations at healthy sustainable levels. Public hunting also provides an opportunity for the public to engage in a traditional wildlife-dependent recreational activity on their national wildlife refuges. At Bosque del Apache NWR regulated hunting is permitted for mule deer, Rio Grande turkey, light geese, quail, white-winged and mourning dove and Desert Cottontail rabbit. All other wildlife is protected.

The refuge permits hunting of mule deer in designated areas on the refuge throughout approved State deer hunt seasons and subject to the following regulations and requirements:

Requirements

- All deer hunters must possess a current New Mexico Game-hunting and Deer License.
- The boundaries and regulations for hunting on the refuge can appear complex, especially for hunters not acquainted with the area. Make sure you know where you are hunting and what, if any, special regulations are in effect.
- Hunters are responsible for compliance with all State and Federal hunting regulations.
- Report accidents or injuries to the Refuge Manager and State agencies. After hours, call 911.

General Hunting Regulations

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations that govern hunting on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations.

We allow hunting of mule deer on designated areas of the refuge in accordance with State regulations subject to the following conditions:

- Refer to the refuge map for designated hunting areas.
- All firearms, including handguns, rifles, and shotguns, within a vehicle must be unloaded and either cased or broken down.
- Hunting from a vehicle is not permitted.
- All State and Federal hunting regulations regarding methods of take, dates, bag limits, etc., apply to all hunting on the refuge, in addition to refuge-specific regulations.
- Hunting any species on the Rio Grande within the refuge is not permitted.
- The use of dogs while hunting mule deer on the refuge is not permitted.
- Target shooting, overnight camping, open fires, and collecting of firewood are not permitted.

Refuge Specific Hunting Regulations

Approximately 10 miles of the Rio Grande flow through the refuge, dividing it into a West side and an East side (see map). Different Federal hunt regulations apply to each side and are noted here.

Hunting West of the Rio Grande—West Side

- Primitive Weapons (Bow and Arrow, Crossbow and Bolt, Muzzleloader) – State Highway 1 to the west boundary of the refuge, with the exception of Unit 3 and other areas indicated CLOSED TO HUNTING on the map.
- All Legal Sporting Arms – Power line to the west boundary.
- Access to refuge lands west of State Highway 1 is via the Canyon and Chupadera National Recreation Trail

parking lots, Gravel Pit Road, and along State Highway 1.

- We prohibit horseback riding on all lands west of the Rio Grande within the refuge.

Hunting East of the Rio Grande—East Side:

- All legal sporting arms: Eastern shore of the Rio Grande to the east boundary of the refuge.
- Hunting on the east side of the Rio Grande is by foot, bicycle, or horseback. Bicycles must remain on designated roads.
- Horseback riding is permitted only on the east side from September 1 to March 1 in support of hunt activity.

Access to the east boundary

San Pedro Road Entrance – Take State Highway 380 east from San Antonio. Turn right onto San Pedro Road. Turn left on Guadalajara Road and continue to follow this dirt road until it accesses the refuge boundary. Do not block the gate or roadway.

Horse Gate # Need information here from Ben

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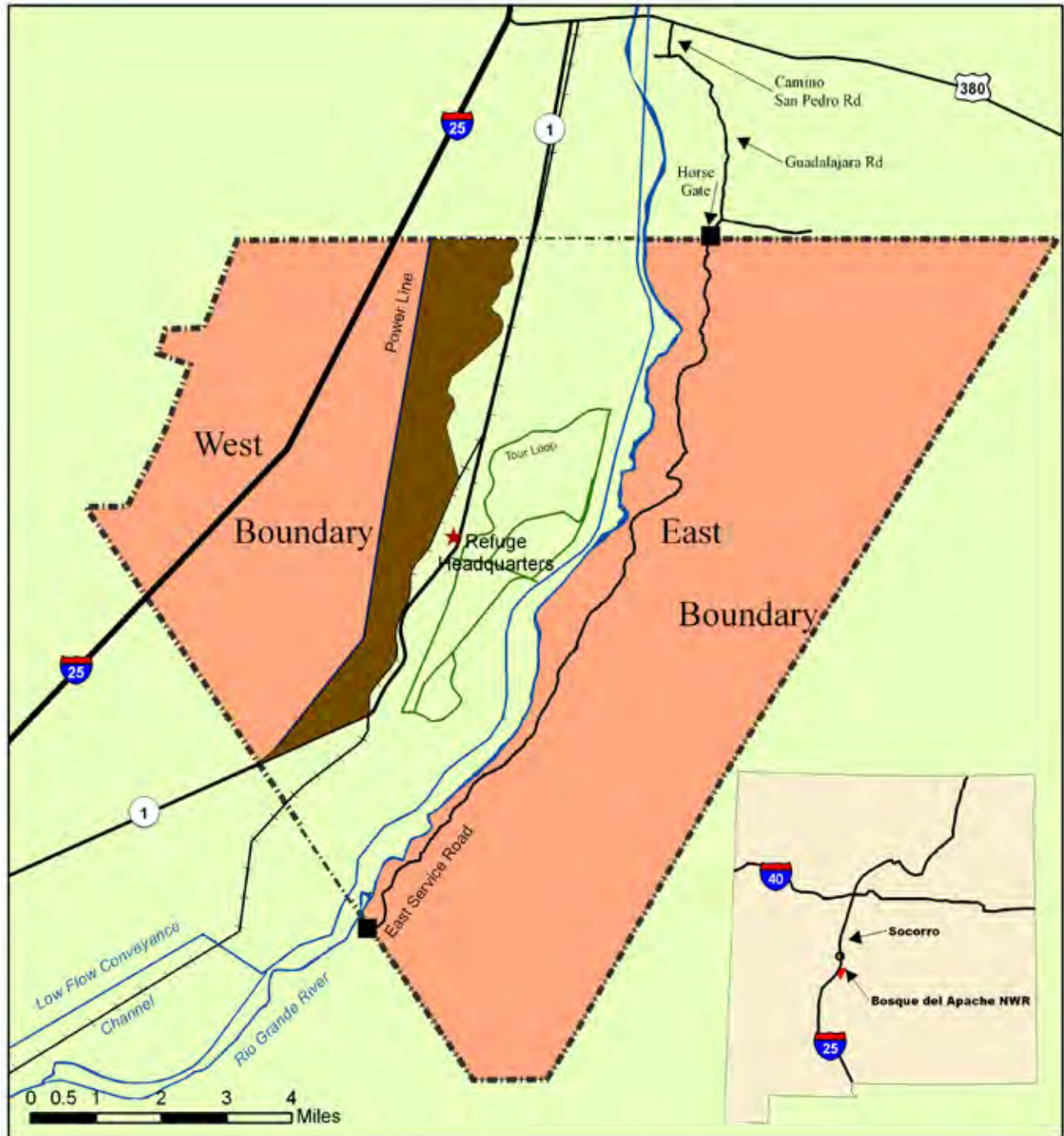
Watch Out

The desert can be dangerously hot and dry. Be sure to carry and drink plenty of water, use sunscreen, wear light colored clothing when possible and a hat. Watch out for stinging insects, venomous reptiles, and thorny plants. Avoid putting your hands and feet under rocks or into crevices and plants, and watch where you step or sit.

For more information contact:

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National Wildlife Refuge
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Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

- Mule Deer and Small Game
- Small Game
(also Mule Deer with Primitive arms only)
- Closed to Hunting

- Bosque del Apache NWR Boundary
- Railroad
- Access Point



Map created: May 2012